

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 EB-11

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POUCHED ALL CONSULAR POSTS IN CANADA FOR INFO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, CA, US

SUBJECT: COMMONS EXCHANGE ON BUNKER OIL TO MAINE PAPER MILLS AND
CANADIAN CONCERN OVER U.S. PETROLEUM PRODUCT EXPORTS TO
BRITISH COLUMBIA

1. THE FOLLOWING EXCHANGE TOOK PLACE DECEMBER 20 IN COMMONS
BETWEEN ENERGY MINISTER MACDONALD AND NEW BRUNSWICK MP MCCAIN:

BEGIN TEXT.

MR. FRED MCCAIN (CARLETON-CHARLOTTE): MR. SPEAKER, IN VIEW OF
THE MAJOR DISRUPTION OF TRADE AND TRADITIONAL EMPLOYMENT
PATTERNS IN WESTERN NEW BRUNSWICK, PART OF QUEBEC AND IN
THE STATE OF MAINE WHICH WILL RESULT IF THE NATIONAL ENERGY
BOARD DOES NOT ALLOW FULFILMENT OF LONG-TERM CANADIAN CONTRACTS
TO PROVIDE BUNKER C OIL TO PULP MILLS IN MAINE, HAS THE MINISTER
ASKED THE NATIONAL ENERGY BOARD TO RECONSIDER EXPORT APPLICATIONS
FOR BUNKER C OIL SUPPLY TO THESE MILLS AND, IF SO, WHAT IS
THEIR POSITION NOW?

HON. DONALD S. MACDONALD (MINISTER OF ENERGY, MINES AND
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RESOURCES): MR. SPEAKER, I HAVE SPOKEN TO THE NATIONAL

ENERGY BOARD FOLLOWING DISCUSSIONS WITH THE HON. MEMBER AND WITH PREMIER HATFIELD ON THIS QUESTION. THE BOARD ADVISES ME THAT IN THEIR JUDGMENT THERE IS AN INSUFFICIENT QUANTITY OF BUNKER C OIL AVAILABLE ON THE EAST COAST FOR THEM TO BE ABLE TO CERTIFY THAT THESE EXPORTS WILL BE SURPLUS TO CANADIAN REQUIREMENTS. THEREFORE, UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF THE STATUTE THEY WOULD BE REQUIRED TO REFUSE APPLICATIONS. I HAVE SUGGESTED TO MY DEPARTMENT THAT WE MIGHT EXPLORE THIS FURTHER WITH WASHINGTON TO SEE IF THERE MIGHT BE A POSSIBLE QUID PRO QUO BETWEEN THE SITUATION IN MAINE AND THAT OF THE LOWER MAINLAND OF BRITISH COLUMBIA.
END OF TEXT.

2. EARLIER IN WEEK (DECEMBER 17 AND 18) BRITISH COLUMBIA MPS HARDING AND DOUGLAS REQUESTED INFORMATION FROM BOTH MACDONALD AND ITC MINISTER GILLESPIE IN COMMONS QUESTION PERIODS ABOUT U.S. OIL PRODUCT EXPORTS TO BRITISH COLUMBIA. MPS STATED THAT THEY UNDERSTOOD ARCO (CHERRY POINT) HAD INFORMED B.C. CUSTOMERS THAT THERE WILL BE NO SHIPMENTS FROM DECEMBER 16 TO JANUARY 1 AND THAT SUBSEQUENTLY SHIPMENTS WILL BE CUT TO 80 PERCENT OF NORMAL FLOW. NEITHER MINISTER RESPONDED SUBSTANTIVELY.
JOHNSON

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